

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 667
By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Stan Brock and the
Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those fine citizens and organizations that seek to provide basic medical care to people around the globe whose access to health care is limited; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy organization is Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps, headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee which provides medical aid to people in the world's inaccessible regions and those in the remote areas of the United States who cannot afford to pay, be they uninsured, underinsured or unemployed; and

WHEREAS, this wonderful organization is the vision and creation of Mr. Stan Brock of Knoxville, known to all as the co-star of the television series, *Wild Kingdom*, the most popular weekly wildlife series ever broadcast by an American television network; and

WHEREAS, a young witness to the human sufferings of inadequate healthcare, Mr. Brock was raised with the Wapishana Indians of the Central American Basin where he developed a love of animals and a deep compassion for the local people who had no ready access to basic medical care. He vowed to find a way to provide medical aid for those whose access to care was limited geographically and financially; and

WHEREAS, after years of research and planning, in 1985, Mr. Brock saw his dream materialize as Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps, a carefully developed network of men

and women who have come together to make “RAM” a highly mobile and efficient relief force;
and

WHEREAS, as Founder, President and Volunteer Coordinator, Stan Brock has led this mobile relief force of over 16,000 volunteers that has provided free medical care to over 196,893 patients and veterinary care for over 54,000 animals with a total dollar value of more than \$15,023,367; over 50% of the people served are from rural America; and

WHEREAS, RAM volunteers include doctors, nurses, dentists, medical technicians, veterinarians and other medical professionals who go on RAM expeditions at their own expense and treat hundreds of patients a day under some of the worst conditions in countries such as India, Honduras and Guyana, in addition to missions here in the United States on the Sioux Indian reservations and in remote areas of Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this all-volunteer, non-profit group provides a host of basic medical services including eye exams, dental care, hearing exams, bone density tests, blood work, cholesterol and diabetes screenings, pulmonary checks, pap smears, cancer screenings and medication assistance; and

WHEREAS, RAM was authorized to provide medical services to rural Tennesseans with the enactment of the Volunteer Health Care Services Act in 1985 by the General Assembly, which allowed non-resident licensed medical professionals to practice in Tennessee when they volunteer their services, for free, to poor residents who are unable to get appropriate health care; and

WHEREAS, RAM currently maintains an ongoing program in Guyana, South America where volunteers staff a small hospital and offer free air ambulance service to the Amerindian population in the interior of the county; future plans include expanding U.S. expeditions, developing an airborne medical treatment center and expanding the program to Africa; and

WHEREAS, the benefits to individuals and communities through this organization and Mr. Stan Brock is immeasurable and truly epitomizes the “Volunteer Spirit” which all Tennesseans hold dear; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Stan Brock and the volunteers of Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps for their dedication to serving all people with the utmost integrity, acumen, and alacrity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Stan Brock and the volunteers of Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps for their compassion and dedication to providing medical care to people in Tennessee and around the globe. We extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.